



Ventnor Urban District Council

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THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1954



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THE VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

VENTNOR, ISLE OF WIGHT.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1954.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor W.H. Jones

Councillors J. Colbeck, S.G. Conbeer,
W.C.S. Hake, F.H.G. King, J.P.,
H.D.L. Lowe and F.S. Smith.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

D. Warren Browne,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H.

Sanitary Inspector

E.E. Roughton
M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ended 31st December 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ventnor Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for 1954 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district.

Vital Statistics.

The estimated population remained unchanged at 6,890. The number of births increased by 8 to 82, giving a comparative birth-rate of 13.0, as against 11.9 in the previous year. Deaths decreased by 5 to a total of 90, giving a reduction in the comparative death-rate from 9.7 to 9.0. Of these 90 deaths, 3 were of infants under one year of age, 2 of whom were under 4 weeks old and were premature. Prematurity is, today, a major cause of death in infants, since it is often associated with congenital malformations.

For interest I include below extracts from the vital statistics for Ventnor for the year 1900 and 1920.

Year	Population	Deaths under 1 year	Deaths all ages	Deaths from T.B.
1900	6805	11	109	35
1920	4711	5	86	16
1954	6890	3	90	3

Infectious Diseases

Only 21 notifications of infectious diseases were received during 1954, compared with 282 during the preceding year. Measles cases decreased from 243 to only 2, and whooping cough from 13 to 5.

Tuberculosis

Of the 15 cases of tuberculosis notified during the year, 8 were transfers from the mainland. Three deaths from tuberculosis occurred, two of these deaths occurring in persons of the 65-75 age group. It is commonly thought that tuberculosis is primarily a disease of young persons, but this is not necessarily so. Time and again cases are discovered in elderly persons suffering from "chronic bronchitis" which has been present some years. Such persons may be dangerous carriers of the disease, all the more so when they live or mingle closely with children and adolescents. Tuberculous meningitis of infants is usually due to contact with a relative or family friend suffering from a troublesome, or not too troublesome, chronic cough. Lung tuberculosis of adolescents and young adults is similarly contracted. Beware grandfather and his chronic cough unless his sputum has been examined for tubercle bacilli!

Sanitary Circumstances.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is included as an appendix to this report, together with details of inspections and other work carried out by him. I should like to draw the attention of the Council once again to the amount of work performed by him at the Wroxall Bacon Factory. In spite of the time spent by him on meat inspection, he has continued to maintain routine inspection of catering establishments in the district, as far as possible in the limited time available. There is no doubt that the standard of hygiene is improving, thanks to the co-operation of the food retailers in the town.

Housing

Number of families re-housed by the Council - 25

8 of these were cases of overcrowding
8 were removed from unfit or unsuitable dwellings
6 were re-housed from requisitioned property
3 were other applicants on the waiting list

Most of the severe cases of overcrowding and hardship have now been re-housed. Each year, however, more of the older houses in the town are deteriorating, and there are many houses which do not have bathrooms, inside sanitation, or adequate means of heating water. There are still very many families in the district living under conditions which do not nearly approach today's accepted standard for decent accommodation.

I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Mr. Jones, for his support and encouragement throughout the year, and to the Members for the interest they have taken in the work of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. WARREN BROWNE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS(1) GENERAL

Total hours of sunshine during 1954:-

January	78.8 hrs.	July	190.9 hrs.
February	74.8 hrs.	August	193.4 hrs.
March	136.8 hrs.	September	173.8 hrs.
April	263.0 hrs.	October	99.4 hrs.
May	187.3 hrs.	November	65.9 hrs.
June	156.2 hrs.	December	54.2 hrs.

Total rainfall during 1954	39.60 inches
Area in acres	3,522
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954)	1,874
Rateable value	£66,959
Sum represented by ld. rate	£263.15.6.

(2) VITAL

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) 6,890

<u>Births</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. of live legitimate births	42	36	78
No. of live illegitimate births	2	2	4
Live birth rate for 1,000 of estimated resident population			11.9
Comparative factor (births)			1.09
Comparative birth rate			13.0
Live birth rate for 1,000 England and Wales			15.2
No. of legitimate stillbirths			Nil.
No. of illegitimate stillbirths			Nil.
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths			Nil.

Deaths

Total No. of deaths	45	45	90
Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			13.1
Comparative factor (deaths)			0.69
Comparative death rate			9.0
Death rate England and Wales			11.3
Deaths from puerperal causes			Nil.
No. of deaths of legitimate infants under one year of age	3	-	3
No. of deaths of illegitimate infants under one year of age			Nil.
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births			36.6
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			38.5
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil.
Deaths from measles (all ages)			Nil.
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)			Nil.
Deaths from cancer (all ages)			20

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2 (2)	1 (3)
Tuberculosis, other	- (-)	- (-)
Syphilitic disease	- (-)	- (-)
Diphtheria	- (-)	- (-)
Whooping Cough	- (-)	- (-)
Meningococcal infections	- (-)	- (-)
Acute poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (-)
Measles	- (-)	- (-)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	- (-)	- (-)
Malignant Neoplasm - stomach	1 (1)	2 (3)
" " - lung,		
bronchus	1 (1)	- (1)
" " - breast	- (-)	2 (3)
" " - uterus	- (-)	- (-)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8 (2)	6 (4)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	- (-)	- (1)
Diabetes	- (-)	- (-)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2 (6)	6 (9)
Coronary disease, angina	8 (12)	5 (4)
Hypertension with heart disease	- (-)	- (5)
Other heart disease	9 (6)	13 (8)
Other circulatory disease	1 (3)	- (-)
Influenza	- (2)	- (2)
Pneumonia	- (3)	2 (2)
Bronchitis	2 (1)	1 (1)
Other diseases of respiratory system	1 (-)	- (-)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	- (1)	1 (-)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1 (-)	- (-)
Nephritis and nephrosis	- (-)	- (-)
Hyperplasia of prostate	- (5)	- (-)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	- (-)	- (-)
Congenital malformations	2 (-)	- (-)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5 (1)	5 (2)
Motor vehicle accidents	- (-)	- (-)
All other accidents	2 (-)	- (1)
Suicide	- (-)	1 (-)
Homicide and operations of war	- (-)	- (-)
All causes	45 (46)	45 (49)

Note: Figures for 1953 are entered in brackets.

HEALTH SERVICESPrevalence and Control of Infectious and
Other Diseases

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	7	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	1	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Measles	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Acute Encephalitis (Post-infections)	1	-	-
	21	2	-

Age at Date of Notification

<u>Age</u>	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles	Whooping Cough	Meningococcal Infection	Erysipelas	Acute Encephalitis (post-infections)
Under 1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1 and under 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 " " 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
5 " " 10	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-
10 " " 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
15 " " 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20 " " 35	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 " " 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 " " 65	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
<u>Totals</u>	7	-	-	3	-	1	-	2	5	-	2	1

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

None notified.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

Estimated percentage of the child population
it is considered were immunised at -

Aged under 5 - 15
5 years years

31st December 1954

32.8

62.8

(This estimate includes so far as can be assessed, children
immunised in the authority's area by private arrangements
and children who have come into the area after being
immunised elsewhere).

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases

From the weekly returns
of Headteachers:-

Chicken Pox	19
German Measles	1
Mumps	143
Ringworm	1
	<u>164</u>

TUBERCULOSIS

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Total</u>	<u>Deaths</u>			
		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.			Pulm.		Non-Pulm.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1 " " 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5 " " 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10 " " 15	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15 " " 20	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
20 " " 25	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
25 " " 35	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	
35 " " 45	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
45 " " 55	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	
55 " " 65	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
65 " " 75	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	
75 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<u>Total</u>	15	7	7	-	1	3	2	1	-	

* This number includes 8 transfers from the mainland and
one case in which the death return gave the first information.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1944.

Number of samples taken during 1954	13
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive	1
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1954, for the Urban District of Ventnor.

Part I of the Act.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	10	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	58	6	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	32	68	6	-

Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness	8	8	1	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	16	15	1	1	-

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Salisbury Gardens,
Ventnor, I.W.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ventnor Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1954. As in previous years the report is set out as a separate item of the Medical Officer of Health's report and I am indebted to Dr. Warren Browne for this privilege.

The year brought an increased amount of work due chiefly to additional legislation affecting housing and a number of other enactments and regulations. The administration of the Shops Act was delegated from the County Council to the various local authorities and the Sanitary Inspector became also Shops Inspector with responsibility for enforcing the provisions of the Act in regard to closing hours, Sunday trading and all matters affecting the welfare of shop assistants.

General Duties -- public health and housing.

One new Act of general interest is the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act which came into force during the year. Although not a public health matter, the Act is administered generally by Sanitary Inspectors and as a safety measure in homes and offices it will be of great benefit. All heating appliances with exposed heating units or elements must now be fitted with guards of specified size and strength, thus minimising danger to users, particularly children. Nowadays many folk resent additional regulations fearing a curtailment of public liberty, but such legislation as this is surely welcomed by all concerned.

Housing work in its widest sense still takes up the larger part of a Sanitary Inspector's time and of the 194 complaints received, the great majority refer to housing or drainage. The latter item is of vital importance in a terraced area such as Ventnor and particular attention is paid to repair work on drains and sewers. During the year in 5 cases major repairs had to be carried out to combined drains or sewers and in these cases serious obstructions and defects were found which had obviously been existing for a considerable time. Ground movement, settlement and the use of oversize pipes are the main causes of such troubles and they are aggravated by a dearth of sewer manholes and inadequate sewer flushing.

The use of the Branksome type of back inlet gully for reception of waste and rain water does much to promote hygienic drainage in the Council's houses and flats and since the introduction of this type of gully three years ago, no complaints of nuisance arising from choked gullies have been reported. The fitting

/could

fitting could be adopted generally in house drainage work with great benefit to both householders and property owners.

A marked improvement in the housing situation was noticeable towards the end of the year and it was possible for the Council to re-house all families living in conditions of acute overcrowding.

A housing survey was commenced and so far confirms the opinion already held that there are many houses of the smaller type which, if re-conditioned and improved, would give many more years of useful service at reasonable rents. In such cases the housing improvement grant, which provides owners with half the cost of works of improvement, could be more widely publicised. In approved cases the grant will enable a sub-standard dwelling to be converted into one or more useful housing units and do much to reduce the waiting list of applicants for Council houses who are frequently applying because of unsatisfactory conditions and lack of modern amenities.

Food and Water Supplies.

The water supply was satisfactory throughout the year except for the nuisance and annoyance caused by the fine sandy matter in suspension. Samples for bacteriological analysis were taken regularly at all parts of the town and at the sources and the results were consistently satisfactory. The Public Analyst also reports favourably on samples for chemical analysis.

Most of the milk supplied in the district is pasteurised and check samples are taken regularly in the case of all Special Designated milks. All of the milk supplied to the schools is pasteurised and this supply is sampled and checked regularly, so that any deviation from the legal standard is readily observed and appropriate action can be taken.

All food premises in the town are inspected regularly throughout the year and the majority are well kept and comply with the regulations. Improvements were carried out at a number of such premises on request and these include the provision of screens and show cases for food on display, improved methods of refuse storage and disposal and the provision of washing facilities and additional equipment for washing-up in catering establishments.

It will be seen from the report that no cases of food poisoning were reported during the year. This is very satisfactory and reflects credit on the food traders. Nevertheless it must not be assumed that there is no room for improvement in some food premises nor in the habits of some persons employed in the industry. The lack of interest in food hygiene is shown by the disappointing number of requests for a booklet on the subject which was produced and publicised locally with a view to assisting proprietors of food premises and their employees in providing and maintaining a good standard of food handling and preparation.

Education by means of talks and demonstrations has been considered the best method of bringing home to food handlers the importance of food hygiene, but unfortunately

undesirable type of employee does not appear to take advantage of such education nor appreciate his duty to the public. Employers might do well to consider the habits of some persons before engaging them for tasks where they can possibly contaminate foodstuffs for sale.

Food hygiene depends so largely on clean habits and methods that real progress can only be evolved gradually as the workers mode of living improves. When a good standard of hygiene has been incorporated into our habits, dirty practices become repulsive.

Meat Inspection.

The number of pigs passing through the Wroxall Bacon Factory during the year was maintained at over twelve thousand and visits to the Factory for the purpose of meat inspection numbered 173.

It will be seen from the figures relating to condemnation that there is still a small percentage of pigs suffering from tuberculosis. This percentage has been reduced year by year and is now only two per cent of the total.

There is close co-operation with the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the case of all notifiable animal diseases and where pigs received for slaughter are found to be diseased, their origin is traced and follow-up action at the farms taken by the Divisional Veterinary Officer. Such action in the case of tuberculosis has resulted in the marked decrease in the number of tuberculous pigs received at the Factory.

Diseases found on post mortem include swine erysipelas, fever, jaundice and arthritis in addition to tuberculosis and a number of other conditions are found which may render the animal carcase unfit for food. For example, an unpleasant colour and taste in the meat was found to be due to feeding the pigs with an excess of linseed oil cake which made the meat quite unpalatable and necessitated condemnation of the carcasses.

It is satisfactory to note that all condemned meat is disposed of in a separate part of the Factory under strict supervision and no diseased or unfit material leaves the premises.

The Bacon Factory has been adapted to comply with recent amending legislation and new departments for the manufacture of sausages and cooked meats are in course of construction.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
E.E. ROUGHTON

Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS IN
CONNECTION WITH HOUSING.

Housing Act.

1.	Number of houses which, on inspection, were considered unfit.	68
2.	Number of houses, defects of which were remedied in consequence of informal action by local authority or its officers.	52
3.	Number of representations made to local authority with a view to serving notices requiring -	
	(a) execution of works	Nil
	(b) making of demolition or closing order	2
4.	Number of notices served requiring execution of works	Nil
5.	Number of houses rendered fit after the serving of formal notices	Nil
6.	Number of demolition or closing orders made	1
7.	Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 11 or Section 12 of the Housing Act.	Nil
8.	Number of houses demolished.	Nil
9.	Inspections made to investigate overcrowding.	8
10.	Cases where overcrowding was found to exist	6
11.	Cases of overcrowding abated.	6

Public Health Act.

1.	Houses inspected for defects	66
2.	Inspections and re-visits made to above premises	198
3.	Houses found to be unfit for human habitation.	2
4.	Houses found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation.	66

Action taken.

1.	Houses rendered fit for habitation following formal action under Public Health Act.	2
2.	Houses rendered fit for habitation following informal action under Public Health Act.	52

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS
MISCELLANEOUS.

Drainage (old buildings)	198
Drainage (new buildings)	15
Drains tested	48
Refuse Disposal	41
Verminous Premises	26
Stables and Piggeries	20
Rat and Mice Infestation	35
Water Supply	48
Rag and Bone Dealer	6
Camping Sites	13
Nuisances	34
 <u>Food Premises</u>	
Bakehouses	26
Ice Cream premises	30
Butchers' shops	32
Cafes and Restaurants	68
Dairies and Milk shops	12
Grocers' and Provision shops	51
Fish shops	13
Hotels and Boarding Houses	26
Greengrocers	13
Slaughterhouse	173
Visits in connection with food complaints	21

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED
OUT DURING THE YEAR.

Roofs repaired	28
Dampness remedied	17
Floors repaired or re-laid	7
Doors and windows repaired	10
Walls and ceilings cleansed and decorated	13
Repairs to ceiling and wall plasters	19
Ceilings renewed	4
Fireplaces renewed	13
Fireplaces repaired	4
Chimney stacks repaired and made safe	6
Rainwater gutters and down pipes repaired and renewed	10
Drains re-laid	5
Drains repaired and cleansed	29
Water closets repaired	9
New water closet pans provided	9
Yard paving repaired	4
Dust bins provided	25
Sinks provided	9
Water storage cisterns renewed	6
Verminous premises cleansed	21
<u>Improvements to Food Premises</u>	
Ablution facilities provided	7
Cleansed and re-decorated	19
Sundry repairs	13

CONDEMNATION OF FOODSTUFFSMEAT

<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Whole pig carcasses and all offal	12	1,486 lbs.
Part carcasses	11	156 lbs.
Heads	244	2,928 lbs.
Plucks	56	370 lbs.
 <u>Other Diseases</u>		
Whole pig carcasses and all offal	28	3,650 lbs.
Part carcasses	28	158 lbs.
Plucks	401	2,366 lbs.
Lungs and Hearts	427	1,106 lbs.
Liver		80 lbs.
Total weight of meat condemned		<u>12,300 lbs.</u>

Of the total number of pigs slaughtered 2.2%
were found to be affected with tuberculosis.

OTHER FOODSTUFFS

Tinned Jam	28 lbs.
Tinned Meat	236 lbs.
Tinned Fish	32 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	164 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	102 lbs.
Tinned Soup	194 lbs.
Tinned Milk	12 lbs.
Sausages	36 lbs.
Porage Oats	96 lbs.
Cheese	29 lbs.
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Total weight of other food condemned	809 lbs.
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